

## REMARKS

Claims 1–6, 8, and 9 were pending and remain pending. In this Response, Applicant proposes corrections to the drawings as suggested by the Examiner. The corrections to the drawings are supported by the specification as filed. Therefore, no new matter is entered by the proposed drawing corrections.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the determination that claims 1–6, 8, and 9 are allowed.

### *Telephone interview*

Applicant's agent, undersigned, conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Harvey on November 15, 2002. The nature of the Examiner's formal objection to the drawings was discussed. The examination of the claims on the merits was not discussed.

### *Drawing Corrections*

The Examiner wrote in the Office Action that "elements in the figures should be labelled [sic]." (Office Action of October 2, 2002; page 2). During the telephone interview described above, the Examiner stated that descriptive word labels should be added to each reference numeral to help future searchers in identifying various reference elements.

In response, Applicant proposes corrections to the drawings to comply with the Examiner's requirement. Applicant cannot find provision for the Examiner's requirement among the patent statutes and rules, or in the M.P.E.P. However, Applicant will comply solely to expedite allowance and issuance of the application. Applicant notes that the drawings are provided only to illustrate exemplary embodiments of claimed subject matter. As such, the drawings as filed and as corrected hereby should not be interpreted to limit the claims in any way.

### CONCLUSION

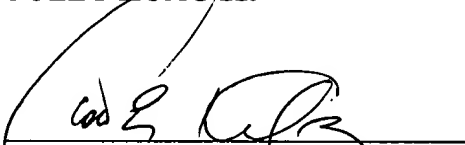
Applicant believes that this application is in condition for allowance and that no issues remain outstanding. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests appropriate action by the Examiner so that this case may pass to issue.

No fee should be necessary for this Response. However, the Commissioner may charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment made in connection with this Response to our Deposit Account No. **06-1448**.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 832-1176 or at the telephone number listed below to discuss any question concerning this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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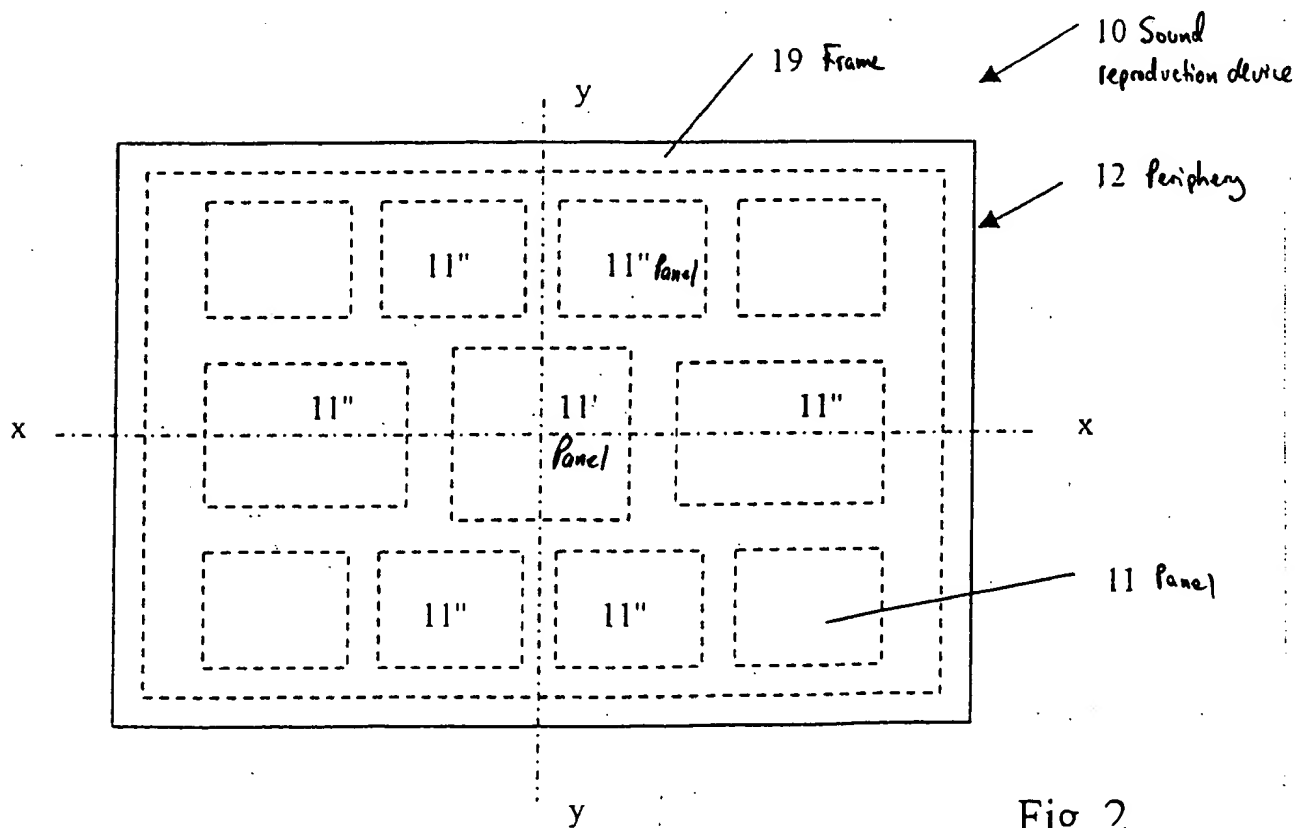
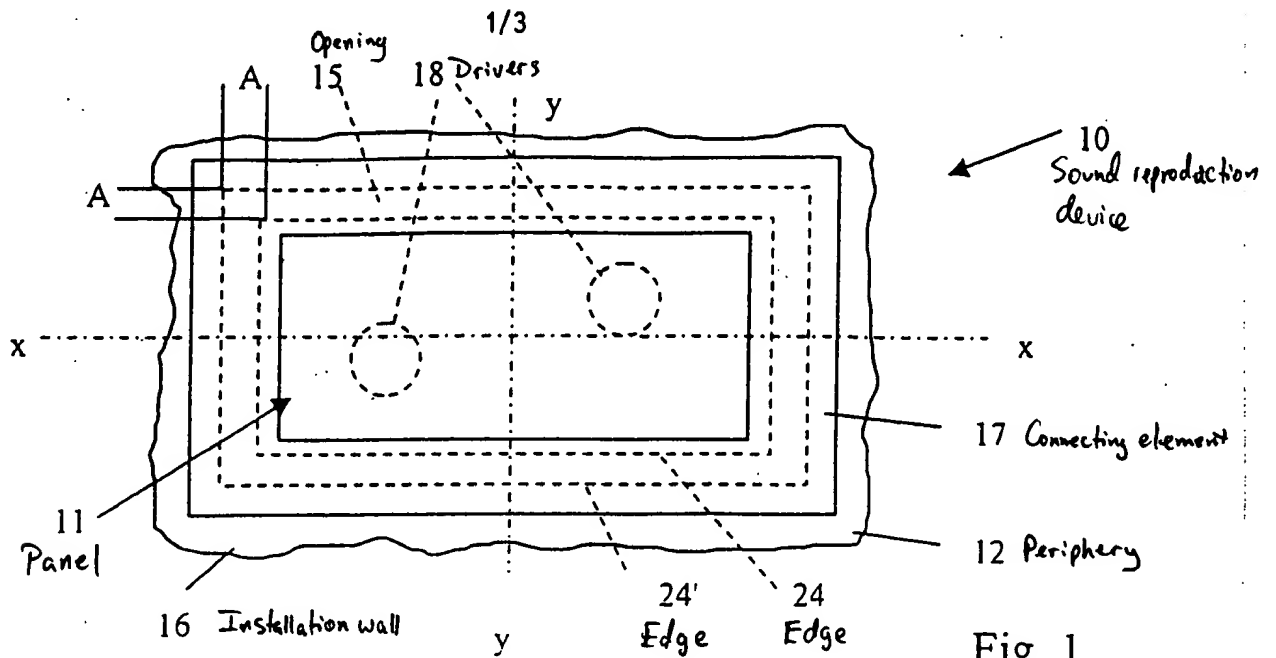


Fig. 4b



Proposed Corrected 3/3 With Markings

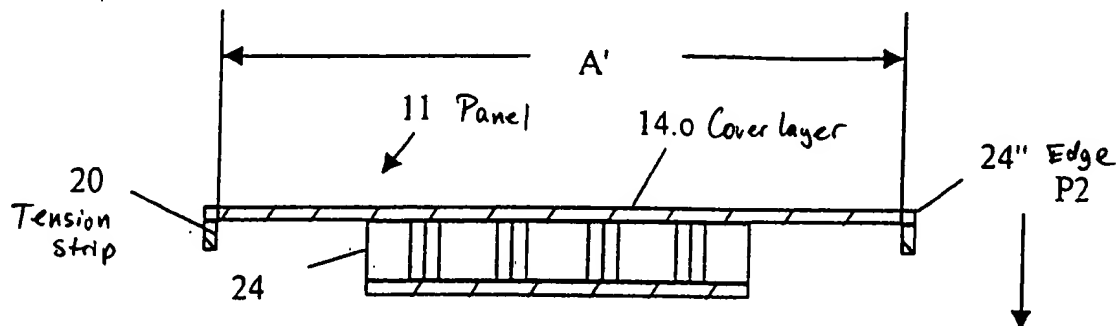


Fig. 5a

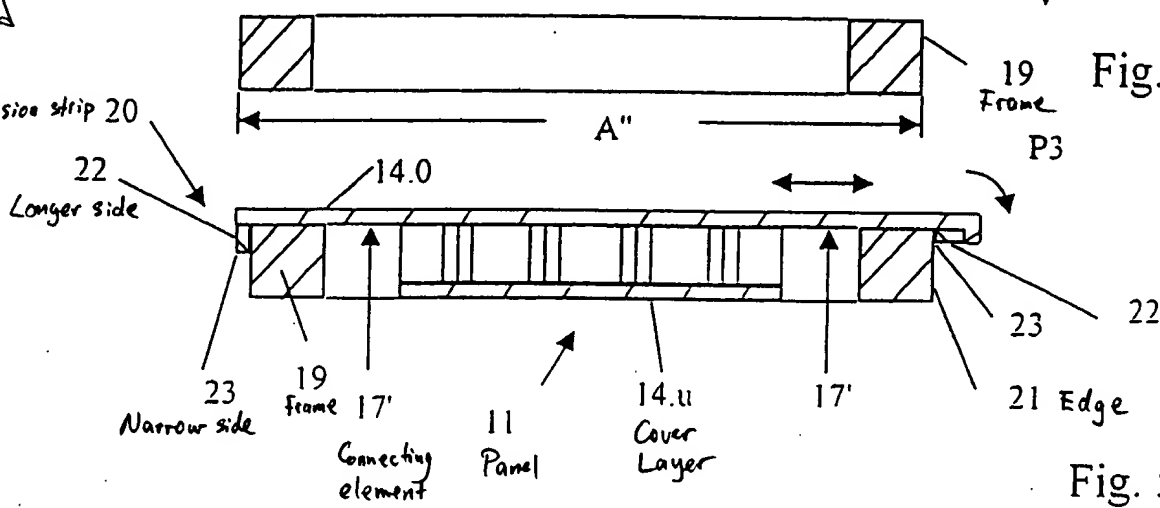


Fig. 5b

Approved  
M50  
2/19/03

Tension strip 20

Longer side

Narrow side

Connecting element

Panel

Cover Layer

Edge